

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT M 01299 150836Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CPR-03 SSC-01
/027 W

-----096013 150840Z /21

P 150005Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3577

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 1299

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, BP
SUBJECT: ACCREDITATION OF SOLOMONS AMBASSADOR TO U.S.

REF: STATE 203947

1. BASIC BIO DATA ON FRANCIS BUGOTU FOLLOWS:
MELANESIAN, BORN ON GUADALCANAL IN 1937.
PRIMARY EDUCATION - ANGLICAN MISSION SCHOOL IN SOLOMONS
SECONDARY EDUCATION - NEW ZEALAND, 1953-56.
ADVANCED - ARDMORE TEACHERS COLLEGE, NZ, 1957-58, GRAD-
UATING WITH TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE. EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY,
1963-64, DIPLOMA COURSE IN TEACHING OF ENGLISH AS 2ND
LANGUAGE. UNIVERSITY OF LANCASTER, UK, 1971-72, M.A.
CAREER - 1959-61, TEACHER AND SCHOOL INSPECTOR FOR DIOCESE
OF MELANESIA.
1960-61, NOMINATED UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF LEGISLA-
TIVE COUNCIL.
1962, ENTERED GOVERNMENT SERVICE AS EDUCATION
OFFICER.
1964, LECTURER AT BRITISH SOLOMONS TRAINING
COLLEGE.
1970-71, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.
1974, CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER.
1975, PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT M 01299 150836Z

1977, PERMANENT SECRETARY, CHIEF MINISTER'S
DEPARTMENT.
1978, SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
MARTIAL STATUS - HE AND HIS WIFE ELLA HAVE TWO CHILDREN.
MRS. BUGOTU IS AN INTELLIGENT AND CHARMING WOMAN, A
NURSE BY TRAINING. FAMILY TIES CLOSE AND THE
BUGOTUS ARE DEEPLY RELIGIOUS.

2. PERSONALLY, BUGOTU IS A FRIENDLY AND ENGAGING MAN WITH WHOM COMMUNICATING IS NO PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH ENTHUSIASTICALLY PRO-AMERICAN, HE DOES DISAGREE WITH THE U.S. WHEN HE BELIEVES ITS POLICIES ARE NOT IN HIS COUNTRY'S BEST INTEREST. HE RECENTLY TOLD AN EMBOFF, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT HE DISAGREED WITH THE U.S. WITH RESPECT TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY. HOWEVER, THE THEN CHIEF MINISTER, PETER KENILOREA, INSTRUCTED HIM TO SUPPORT THE U.S. POSITION AND HE DID SO LOYALLY AND COMPETENTLY.

3. BUGOTU'S STRENGTHS FAR OUTWEIGH HIS WEAKNESSES. BY SOLOMON ISLANDS STANDARDS HE IS EXCEPTIONALLY WELL EDUCATED. HAVING SERVED IN BOTH THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES AND HAVING WORKED HIS WAY UP THROUGH THE BUREAUCRACY, HE IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH ALL FACETS OF GOVERNMENT. WHEN PETER KENILOREA BECAME CHIEF MINISTER HE GAVE BUGOTU THE SENIOR POSITION IN HIS OFFICE AND OVER THE PAST YEAR BUGOTU HAS BEEN, IN EFFECT, THE SOLOMON ISLANDS' FOREIGN OFFICE. ON INDEPENDENCE HE BECAME SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, A KEY POSITION MADE ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT BY KENILOREA'S DECISION TO KEEP FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN HIS OWN OFFICE RATHER THAN APPOINTING A FOREIGN MINISTER. BUGOTU IS CLOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND ENJOYS HIS CONFIDENCE. THEIR RELATIONSHIP IS PERSONAL AS WELL AS PROFESSIONAL. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT M 01299 150836Z

BUGOTU IS ONE OF THE BEST CHOICES FOR THE INITIAL AMBASSADORIAL POSTS THE PRIME MINISTER COULD HAVE MADE.

4. BUGOTU'S PRINCIPAL WEAKNESS IS A LACK OF FORCEFULNESS, A TRAIT NEITHER VALUED NOR WIDESPREAD IN MELANESIAN SOCIETY. A PROFESSIONAL WEAKNESS WHICH MAY SHOW UP IN THE U.S. IS HIS LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT WORLD AFFAIRS. WHILE HE HAS REPRESENTED GSI CAPABLY AT A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND HAS TRAVELLED WIDELY, BUGOTU HAS LITTLE MEANS OF KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH WORLD EVENTS. THE SOLOMONS HAS NO DAILY PAPER AND ACCESS TO NEWS IS LIMITED TO A FEW NEWSCASTS FROM RADIO AUSTRALIA WHICH ARE REBROADCAST ON THE ONE SOLOMONS STATION PLUS WHAT LITTLE READING MATERIAL WHICH REACHES HONIARA. DESPITE THIS, THOSE WHO MEET BUGOTU WILL FIND HIM TO BE COMPETENT, RELATIVELY BROAD-GUAGED AND CERTAINLY IN A POSITION TO SPEAK KNOWLEDGEABLY AND WITH AUTHORITY ON HIS GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDES AND POSITIONS.

5. BUGOTU WILL ACCOMPANY PRIME MINISTER KENILOREA TO UNGA IN SEPTEMBER (ITINERARY TO BE PROVIDED). THEY ALSO PLAN TO VISIT WASHINGTON BRIEFLY AND COULD SCHEDULE THAT

VISIT TO COINCIDE WITH A PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY. WHILE WE BELIEVE PRESENTATION DURING THAT TRIP WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE, PRESENCE OF HIS HEAD OF GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON AT SAME TIME COULD CAUSE PROBLEM. BELIEVE KENILOREA WOULD WANT VERY MUCH TO ACCOMPANY BUGOTU TO WHITE HOUSE FOR CEREMONY AND IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO A VERY FRIENDLY, PRO-AMERICAN, BUT RELATIVELY UNSOPHISTICATED, PRIME MINISTER THAT HE COULD NOT ATTEND. IS THERE ANY PRECEDENT FOR SUCH A CIRCUMSTANCE? IF NOT, COULD PRIME MINISTER BE INCLUDED, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING, OF COURSE, THAT CALL ON THE PRESIDENT IS PRESENTATION CEREMONY ONLY AND THAT NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION BEYOND EXCHANGE OF FORMAL REMARKS POSSIBLE?

OLMSTED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PORT M 01299 150836Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTM01299
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780333-0266
Format: TEL
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780863/aaaacakg.tel
Line Count: 136
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aeff8563-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 203947
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1736704
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACCREDITATION OF SOLOMONS AMBASSADOR TO U.S.
TAGS: PDIP, BP, US, (BUGOTU, FRANCIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aeff8563-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014